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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arms have bound the restless waves, let Your still small voice echo down time's corridors to renew our lawmakers and to lift their vision. Inspire them to dedicate themselves to eternal values and to be unafraid of the consequences of following the highest standards they know. May they run from the success purchased at the cost of cowardice and cunning. Guide them, Lord, by Your living word, as You infuse them with the spirit of service. Help them to see that nothing they do can separate them from Your love but that they can block the experience of Your joy. Remind them to make Your joy their strength.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for up to an hour, with Senators being allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half, the Democrats the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will begin 10 hours of statutory debate with respect to the conference report to accompany the resolution on the budget. Under an agreement we reached last night, the Senate will proceed to the conference report upon receiving a message from the House of Representatives with respect to the conference report. Senators will be notified when the vote on adoption of the conference report is scheduled. We will probably vote on that late this afternoon, early this evening. We have 10 hours. There are no amendments in order. There are no procedural obstacles to our finishing that fairly quickly. I spoke to Chairman CONRAD. He certainly will not use the 5 hours which we are allotted, so we will yield back a lot of that time. Even if the Republicans use all of their 5 hours, we should be able to vote fairly quickly.

As far as the rest of the week is concerned, we hope to reach an agreement with the Republicans to begin consideration of the housing legislation, which

we should be able to start either tonight or tomorrow.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time be equally charged.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLU OUTBREAKS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we were all saddened this morning to hear

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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